

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**[JANUARY 2020 – DECEMBER 2020]**

**Approved by the Governing Council of STEWARDWOMEN during the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020, in Nimule- Eastern Equatoria State, South Sudan.**

**Preamble:** Aware

of;

1. The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic greatly affecting the health and wellbeing of the entire world, with South Sudan's first case in April, 2020. Government and WHO COVID19 preventive restrictions put in place and life saving interventions prioritized.
2. The impact of COVID-19 on individuals and communities and the prevalence of SGBV issues in the face of the pandemic.
3. Increased scale of insecurity in the country since the upsurge of political violence in July 2016 and huge displacement of communities into IDP and refugee camps to the neighboring countries;
4. Wide spread of all forms of violence against women & girls, including sexual violence;
5. The increasing levels of tensions between security agents and communities, arbitrary arrest, torture and detention of unarmed civilians without trial by security agents;
6. The breakdown in the rule of law coupled with impunity;
7. Aware of the daunting challenge faced by the judiciary in the delivery of justice- militarization, & politicization of the judiciary & lack of professionalism;
8. Weak legal and regulatory framework affecting women & girls in the country;
9. The sky rocketing inflation and collapse of the economy in the country;
10. Urgent need for the implementation of the revitalized peace agreement;
11. The need for systematic efforts by CSOs to support citizens to effectively engage with local authorities & governments on issues of security and enforcement of justice, law and order;

STEWARDWOMEN [STW] proposed and implemented the action plans reported below addressing insecurity, violence against women and children especially in the face of COVID-19, severe food shortages, floods among displaced women and poor enforcement of justice, law and order in the country. The action covered the period January 2020- December 2020 through the different projects implemented in Magwi, Nimule, Kapoeta, Bentiu, Bor, Torit & Juba that continued to experience high levels of insecurity, huge displacement of communities and economic crisis.

**Key intervention areas:**

1. Justice, peace and security;
2. Sexual and reproductive health;
3. Women economic empowerment and leadership.

## List of Donors

1. Amplify Change
2. Cordaid
3. South Sudan Humanitarian Fund
4. NPA
5. UNWOMEN
6. UN Trust Fund.
7. UNDP
8. Equality Now

## Project Sites

1. Juba
2. Nimule, Magwi, Juba
3. Rubkona
4. Nimule
5. Bor
6. Juba, Rubkona
7. Kapoeta
8. Juba

## 1.0. ACHIEVEMENTS;

- 1.1 STW established two (2) new offices in Bor & Kapoeta bringing the number of field offices to 5 with Juba as the coordination office.
- 1.2 STW has been entered on the referral pathway for both Kapoeta and Bor for legal aid services provision.
- 1.3 Forty (40) GBV cases were successfully prosecuted during the mobile court in Nimule, Juba Kapoeta.
- 1.4 Fifteen (15) survivors have received medical care for different ailments in Jondoru.
- 1.5 The Ketira Women Group in Nimule have contributed savings of about 2,843,500SSP equivalent of \$17,233 using Central Bank Rate.
- 1.6 A new saving group has been formed with new beneficiaries this year in Nimule, known as the Anyi-ari Ama Women Group.
- 1.7 24 cases are successful mediated by the family court in Ayaci & Nimule.
- 1.8 7 cases were mediated at the legal aid clinic.
- 1.9 2 Bicycles were procured for the use of community paralegals.
- 1.10 18 Neighbourhood assemblies were conducted reaching out to 343 participants comprising of 225F, 118M.
- 1.11 There is reduction of mob justice in the communities of Nimule, Magwi and Ayaci, this is a key result of the neighbourhood assemblies conducted on pertinent issues in the communities and the activities of the women peace mediators like the dialogues they hold in the community.

## 2.0. CHALLENGES;

- 2.1 COVID19 pandemic interrupted and thus delayed implementation of project activities.
- 2.2 There is low compliance on COVID19 guidelines by the people in all project locations.
- 2.3 There is high risk of contracting COVID 19 due to lack of following instruction by the community and most of them do not have face masks.
- 2.4 Fear by the staff in contracting Corona virus when traveling to field using public transport.
- 2.5 With the effect of the COVID 19, many community members fear attending activities organized by NGOs.

- 2.6 In Bentiu, the delay by UNMISS to organize the mobile court is delaying to access justice for survivors.
- 2.7 Low sentences passed during rape cases.
- 2.8 The law enforcement agents ask a lot of money from survivors e.g. they ask money for getting form 8, arrest warrants, and bailing.
- 2.9 Misplacement of files in police in Juba, coupled with settlement of cases at the police stations.
- 2.10 Reluctancy by authorities to establish a police post is increasing insecurity in Jondoru.
- 2.11 Lack of a safe houses for GBV survivors in most of the project locations makes it difficult to address sensitive cases and ensure the survivor's safety.
- 2.12 Most partners supporting GBV work have had their projects ended. This has created gaps in referral pathways in the project implementation locations.
- 2.13 High rates of inflation is affecting provision of services hence reduced targets achieved.
- 2.14 Bureaucracies by authorities is also delaying the construction of 3 WGFS in Bor.
- 2.15 Equatoria staff in Rubkona live in fear of the youth threats of expulsion of all Equatorians from Bentiu.
- 2.16 Harassment of paralegals by some individual in the communities who undermine community outreach activities.
- 2.17 The heavy rains and flooding in Bor greatly affected activities implementation.
- 2.18 Untimely ending of the CORDAID projects affects sustainability of progress and achievements made in project locations.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS;**

- 3.1 There is need for staff and stakeholders to continue to observe WHO & government guidelines on COVID19.
- 3.2 There is need for budget for 16 days of activism and IWD celebrations for all locations.
- 3.3 Jondoru community request for peace building training to resolve inter-communal conflicts specifically among the Mundari tribe.
- 3.4 Need to engage partners such as UNDP, SPU & Payam authorities in Juba to prioritise Jondoru community security and safety concerns.
- 3.5 STEWARDWOMEN should engage the youths in various locations in vocational skills and training programs especially the school drop-outs including the school going children, during holidays.
- 3.6 Vehicles should be hired for field travel especial during this COVID19.
- 3.7 Paralegals should encourage community leaders to attend NHA to know community issues.
- 3.8 Paralegal should document and report any harassment directed to them by community members.
- 3.9 The communities need family court system to be restored back in Nimule.
- 3.10 Women demanded STW to conduct an assessment into the women leadership in Nimule to understand how many high level positions are filled by women.
- 3.11 Refresher trainings should be conducted for STW community paralegals and family court members in Nimule and Magwi.
- 3.12 Chiefs should be trained on customary laws so as to be in line with national laws.

- 3.13 Parents have requested STW and partners in Nimule to provide dignity kits for adolescent school girls to prevent rampant cases of teenage pregnancies.
- 3.14 The SPU requested for establishment of a safe house for GBV survivors in Nimule.
- 3.15 More staff of SPU needs to be trained for timely GBV case handling.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION;**

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic which affected normal office operations, STW was able to adjust and still avail services. However, fewer activities were implemented in some locations than others.

STEWARDWOMEN staff, BOD members and key stakeholders in communities of project implementation have stayed committed to serving the community and striving to end all forms of violations of the rights of women and girls. The energy from the team and commitment from stakeholders will foster the better activities implementation in the next year, 2021.